

REMARKS AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Claims 7, 9, 11, 15, 18-20, 22, and 26-41 are pending. Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 7, 9, 11, 26-28, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7, 9, 11, 15, 26-28, and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,125,391 to Meltzer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,396 to Cronin et al. Claims 18-20, 22, and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,125,391 to Meltzer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,396 to Cronin et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,622,170 to Harrison et al.

Reconsideration is requested. No new matter is added. The specification is amended. Claims 7, 15, 18, 32, and 40 are amended. The rejections are traversed. Claims 7, 9, 11, 15, 18-20, 22, and 26-41 remain in the case for consideration. The Examiner is requested to treat any changes to the claims not reflected as strikethrough or underline text as inadvertent typographical errors.

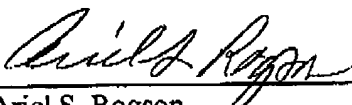
On February 4, 2005, the undersigned held a telephonic interview with Examiner Cao. The claims were discussed with reference to Meltzer, with specific discussion about claims 7 and 15. The Examiner and the undersigned discussed how the distributed directory of the claims is different from the server application of Meltzer. The Applicant argued that the bidirectional data flow (as represented unidirectionally in claims 7 and 15) is not taught or suggested by Meltzer. The Examiner did not agree with this argument, and in a telephonic interview on February 8, 2005, argued that the use of the word "or" in column 9, line 2 of Meltzer suggests that the data flow could be bi-directional. The Applicant did not agree with the Examiner's interpretation of Meltzer. Nevertheless, the Examiner agreed that an amendment narrowing the meaning of the term "event" as used in the claims would help in making the claims allowable over Meltzer. Such amendment is hereby presented. Support for this amendment can be found at page 9, line 26 through page 10, line 1 of the specification.

Although not specifically discussed but pertinent to the topic of the interview, the Applicant would like to point out that claims 29-30 and 41 specify both directions of communication between the distributed directory and the applications.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 7, 9, 11, 15, 18-20, 22, 26-27, and 29-41 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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